

New Routes at the Wolfberg Cracks, Cederberg

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It is surprising that the wide expanse of rock forming the south-east and south-west faces of the Wolfberg at the entrance to the Cracks has attracted so little attention, because the climbing potential that it offers rivals that of the Tafelberg (though on a slightly reduced scale), both in quality of rock and paucity of obvious lines. The easy access afforded to the Cracks, physically and in terms of the restraints placed on climbers visiting the Wilderness Area, makes a spontaneous visit quite feasible over a normal weekend.

Prior to the reconnaissance of Sheep's Clothing on the Wolfberg, it appears that only Lone Wolf to the right of the western-most Crack bounding the south-east face, Red Fox and another route, which we called the Original Route climbed by an unknown party near Molestor on the more broken rock of the south-west face, had been opened on the cliff. The description of Red Fox is vague and while it is possible that the climb may cover common ground with the Original Route, its exact line is unknown.

The reconnaissance of Sheep's Clothing, which started as a late afternoon boulder exercise with Alma Snijders on Christmas eve, 1977, demonstrated that the improbable was in many cases quite possible. The superb climbing and impressive situations that we encountered kindled an immediate resolve to return and explore the intriguing complexities of the serried overhangs stretching across the upper face.

We didn't return until the middle of July, 1978, when the unusually mild winter conditions prevailing lured us back to finish Sheep's Clothing and initiated a series of further clandestine visits to polish off the plums, starting with the more obvious breaks. But the seclusion we enjoyed during these early visits was short-lived.

First a half page colour advertisement of a climber pegging out under the vast roof jutting out over space on the corner between the south-east and south-west faces appeared in the newspapers, but it seems the actors commercial instincts blinded them to the set against which they performed and the advertisement did not precipitate the avalanche we felt certain must come. It was not until news of our own activities leaked out, that Michael Scott and Robin Barley visited the face during the September long weekend and discovered what it was all about! One of the few snowfalls of the winter had sheathed the face in an icy mantle and fortuitously frustrated any serious exploration, but the die was cast.

In stark contrast with the calm of our previous visits the Wolfberg soon became a scene of intrigue as the jackals moved in and activity escalated to a point where on one long weekend four parties were simultaneously involved in attempting new lines. Close to a dozen new routes varying in difficulty from F1 to G3 were opened within a space of approximately six weeks. All credit for the really hard new lines goes to Robin Barley and David Davies, whose Alone in Space and Celestial Journey are probably the finest routes on the cliff.

Sanddrift's shady oaks and clear pools and their proximity to the Cracks offer the perfect family base for climbing in the area, but the all-pervading aura of timelessness that is a feature of the Cracks lends a greater attraction to a high camp on the grassy shelves below the south-east face. The true atmosphere of the face is felt here - the night-long chatter of restless swifts, dawn heralded by the clap of rock pigeons wings and the dazzling blaze of orange and blue as the face is lit by the suns first rays. It is almost literally one step from sleeping bag to starting beacon onto rock already warm to the touch.

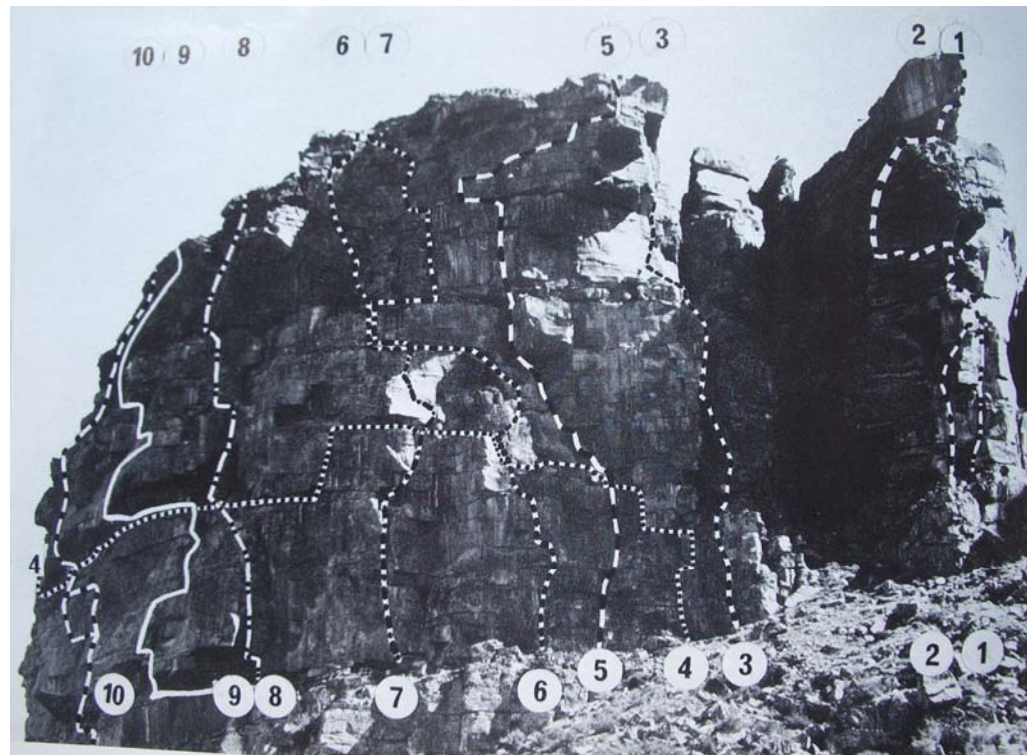
The descriptions of the climbs marked on the accompanying photographs have been prepared by their opening parties. For purposes of clarity the climbs are described in sequence from east to west, the right-hand end of the south-east face being the point most easily accessible from the usual path of approach to the Cracks. Water will be found in all but the driest times under the huge white boulder to the right of this path, just before striking up the slope beneath the south-east face. As far as possible the climbs have been referenced to the prominent features noted in the general description.

We normally used the Gapers Crack as a route of descent, but found that it was sometimes quicker and more convenient to descend the gully on the right of the pinnacle mentioned in the general description. This involves only very easy scrambling, except for the final section where a convenient touch-point is

used to make a 20-metre free abseil down a chimney.

General Description

The corner where the south-east and south-west faces meet, features a huge truncated nose of orange-red rock projecting from the top of the cliff. From the corner the south-east face extends approximately 100 metres to the right to the western-most Crack (which is blocked by massive chockstones and is not easily accessible from below). The Gapers Crack lies still further to the right and is separated from the western-most Crack by a spectacular prow of rock (Lone Wolf starts on the crest of the prow and then veers off around the corner to the right). The south-west face is much longer and is probably more than a kilometre in extent. The rock near its left-hand extremity, however, becomes very broken and the really attractive climbing possibilities end at a large detached pinnacle near its midpoint. Two massive bands of overhangs cut across the south-west face for several hundred metres from the corner between the faces, the lower band forming a huge roof on the corner, which for the previously mentioned reasons we immediately called the BP Overhang. Closer to the pinnacle and separated from it by an expanse of face split by a deep vertical cleft. the south-west face is dominated by another large overhang beneath a broad nose of orange rock.



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|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Lone Wolf | 6. Afterglow |
| 2. Energy Crisis | 7. Celestial Journey |
| 3. Little Red Rooster | 8. Gallows Bird |
| 4. Wolf in Sheep's Clothing | 9. Omega |
| 5. Alone In Space | 10. Day of the Jackals |

Coldfinger

The route follows a line on the right-hand wall of the Gapers Crack. The path into this Crack runs very close to the wall and the start of the climb is at the first point where the grey knobbly rock almost comes down to path level. Lone Wolf is on the side of the prow directly opposite.

1. 20 m E2: Pull through some bulges above the path and then bear diagonally up to the right on knobbly jugs to a ledge.
2. 35 m E3: Continue up on orange rock to a traverse line below a narrow overhang. Traverse to the right until nearly on the corner overlooking the approach slope and pull up onto a big ledge.
3. 20 m E1: Cross to a huge square recess at the back of the ledge and climb the wall on massive jugs.

Party: Pete du Preez, Chris Howe-Ely and Michael Scott.

Date: September, 1979.

Energy Crisis

The route follows a line to the left of Lone Wolf up a spectacular prow of red rock between the western-most Crack and the Gapers Crack. It starts strenuously in the recessed corner to the left of the crest and then continues up easier but very exposed rock to finish on the incredible projecting nose at the top of the prow.

Start from a boulder platform below the obvious crack.

1. 15m G2: Climb a groove to the overhang and, protected by a peg inside the smooth off width crack, make a precarious pull into a layback position from which bold climbing leads to a slight narrowing and a rest on a No. 11 hexentric. Continue up to a good ledge.
2. 35 m F2: Move 5 m up a groove to a block, follow the obvious traverse line to the right to the buttress edge and then climb directly up to a ledge with shattered blocks.
3. 20 m F1: Climb the obvious groove to a big overhang and traverse to the left onto a very exposed face.
4. 10 m F3: Move up to a handrail and debouch to the left around the buttress edge to a good ledge.
5. 40 m F2: Climb steeply up on the right-hand side of a hollow-flake, step to the right and continue over some bulges to a large ledge system below the final tier.
6. 25 m F3: Climb a red groove and traverse to the right onto the exposed nose- Swing up to the right and go directly up the compact grey wall above to the top.

Party: Robin Barley and Richard Smithers (with Mick Hafner on pitches 5. and 6.)

Date: June, 1979.

Little Red Rooster

The route follows a prominent curving ramp which runs up on the right of the projecting corner at the right-hand extremity of the south-east face.

Start just to the left of the entrance to the western-most crack.

1. 30 m F1: Climb a scruffy chimney/crack which breaks through the first grey band of rock. Scramble up to the left to a large ledge immediately below the start of the ramp.
2. 30 m F2: Climb the recess to a ledge below an overhang. The rock at the start of this pitch is rotten.
3. 20 m F2: Continue up to the overhang and then exit to the right onto the ramp which provides easier climbing to a large ledge.
4. 20 m F1: Climb the gargoyles through the face above to the top.

Party: Mike Roberts and Richard Smithers.

Date: September, 1978.

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

The route follows the lower sections of the prominent curved yellow crack system on the right-hand side of the south-east face and then traverses to the left across the lichen covered convex central portion of the face (including a short abseil descent) to the corner. From here it continues traversing to the left under the upper band of overhangs to a steep break through the overhangs which gives access to the face above. The route is more serious than the grading implies.

Start to the left of the rib adjacent to the western-most Crack in a Y-shaped recess terminating just to the right of a huge detached yellow pedestal near the bottom of the crack system.

1. 20 m E3: Climb the crack at the back of the recess to the level of a ledge on the right with some blocks on it. Walk to the right, ascend the crest of a grey nose and pull up to a stance on the level of a tree at the top of the recess.
2. 5 m E3: Dassie traverse to the left to a jammed flake protruding over the recess and handswing past the flake onto a good stance on the left.
3. 15 m E2: Jam up the crack at the back of the stance for 2 m into a chimney on the right of the detached pedestal. Climb the chimney and make an airy step-over from the top of the block into a shallow crack in the face on the left to reach a ledge next to a precariously poised flake, which we called the guillotine, wedged in the curved crack below a triangular overhang.
4. 25 m E1 and F1: Walk 15 m to the left. Descend slightly and traverse further to the left to move up into a shallow groove. Climb 2 m (F1) up the groove to a good platform. Walk and then dassie traverse to the left as far as possible (25 m) to an uncomfortably narrow stance where the ledge pinches out in a blank face.
5. 15 m Abseil: Make an awkward start to abseil from a chockstone down a thin crack in the face below starting from the left-hand extremity of the ledge. Swing in under an overhang onto good hand and foot rails and traverse 2 m to the left to a small stance. Excellent nuts can be placed in the crack to protect the pitch for the last man.
6. 20 m E1: Traverse left to a broad grassy ledge below an overhanging crack on the corner. Walk to the left over blocks onto the ledge below the overhangs to a vertical wall forming a step in the overhangs. Continue 25 m to the left along an easy dassie traverse.
7. 5 m F1: Step down and make an awkward climbing traverse around a smooth bulge to a more comfortable ledge with some blocks on it, below and to the right of a prominent grey juggy ramp piercing the overhangs.
8. 30 m D: Climb down 6 m to a ledge with a large (unoccupied) eagles nest on it. Walk past the nest and climb diagonally up to the left to a cramped cubbyhole stance 5 m above the ledge.
9. 20 m E3: Move around the corner on the left of the stance into a vertical recess. Bridge up the recess and exit via a nose of white rock on the right. Continue up to a ledge 4 m below a small overhang, traverse to the left for a few metres and climb a short face to a knobbly stance below a sharp-edged curving crack in orange rock.
10. 20 m F1: Climb the crack in two steps each of approximately 6 m. Traverse 5 m to the right into a short acute-angled diédre capped by an overhang and climb it exit via the smooth face on the left. Scramble diagonally up to the right to the base of a deep chimney.
11. 35 m E2: Climb the chimney for 12 m to where it widens. Traverse to the left along a narrow ledge onto a projecting corner and climb this on big jugs to the top.

Party: Geoff Ward, Alastair and Andre Schoon.

Date: July 1978.

Alone in Space

The route follows the curved yellow crack system on the right-hand side of the south-east face and finishes on the magnificently exposed orange walls above.

Start in the vertical crack line directly below the huge detached yellow pedestal at the bottom of the curved crack.

1. 60 m F2: Climb a hand jam crack then up more easily past the yellow pedestal and so to belay atop the guillotine, a precariously poised flake wedged in the main crack below a triangular overhang.
2. 20 m G3: Climb into the bowels of the crack to find a good chockstone runner, then descend and jam strenuously across the ceiling crack to reach better layback holds and an awkward rest spot. Continue with difficulty to belay in the chimney above.
3. 33 m F2: Step to the left and climb up to and through a smooth chimney to a sandy ledge.
4. 33 m G1: Enter the attic above, squeeze through the window and follow in the same line passing a short but ferocious hand jam crack.
5. 30 m G2: Walk 10 m to the left to below a steep orange wall. Partial protection for this pitch can be arranged high up on the left arete. Mantelshelf, then climb up slightly to the right with difficulty to a narrow handrail. Traverse hard to the right to an easing, then up and to the right past a ledge to peg belays in a shallow alcove.
6. 25 m G1: Continue to the right on good rails, finally pulling strenuously over a very exposed overhang to another alcove.
7. Go to the right and up 10 m on mammoth jugs to finish.

Party: David Davies and Robin Barley. On the first ascent Pitch 2. was climbed on hexentrics, but a repeat free ascent was made by Mike Roberts and Richard Smithers - a powerful effort.

Date: October, 1978.

Afterglow

A nebulous line giving good climbing up the wall immediately to the left of Alone in Space.

Start 15 m to the left of the crack line used by Alone in space at a left facing corner.

1. 15 m F1: Climb up the corner on good holds to a ledge.
2. 35 m G1: Climb up the grey groove to where it becomes smooth. Move to the left around the corner and up to a roof. Swing up to the right to a rocking block, continue up a crescent crack and hand-traverse to the left on good holds to an easy groove. There is a large belay ledge 30 m higher.
3. 20 m G1 and AO: Step to the right and climb the lichen covered face on rather precarious aid (3 points of aid). Go to the left to a mantelshelf and then back to the right to belay near a chimney.
4. 40 m G1: Traverse back to the left below an overhang and climb up on the left-hand side of some yellow flakes to a roof. Hand-traverse to the left past a peg (used by the leader but freed by seconds) and pull up to a good rail. Move more easily to the left to the far end of a ledge.
5. 33 m G1: Step to the left around the corner and, protected by a peg, climb the unlikely looking grey wall on small holds. Continue up over some ledges to belay below a rounded crack.
6. 20 m F3: Climb the crack until it becomes awkward and then rail to the left across a wall to a big ledge.
7. 40 m F3: From the top of a block on a higher ledge pull up and climb straight up a grey wall to reach an orange recess. Handrail out to the right, stand up and continue to the right to the cliff top.

Party: Richard Smithers, Mike Hafner and Robin Barley.

Date: February, 1979.

Celestial Journey

The route follows a direct line up the steep grey walls in the centre of the south-east face. An excellent climb with hard pitches between good ledges.

Start below the smooth groove 30 m to the left of Afterglow and immediately to the left of a detached boulder.

1. 20 m G1: Climb an obvious crack leading up to the foot of a smooth groove.
2. 25 m G2: Wild climbing leads up the groove with an especially difficult move where the crack narrows.
3. 25 m G1: Head up to the right to a short red groove, turn an overhang and continue up an awkward grey groove to a massive ledge on the right.
4. 20 m G2 and AO: Above is an impressive grey wall. Ascend with difficulty and 2 nuts for aid to a rail at 10 m, go 3 m to the left to a peg and balance up to the left to a good ledge.
5. 10 m F3 and AO: Step to the right and climb a grey wall with an aid point to another ledge and belay across to the left.
6. 20 m G1: Step to the left around the corner and, protected by a peg, climb the unlikely looking grey wall on small holds (as for Afterglow). Traverse to the right to belay below a steep orange crack.
7. 30 m G1: Follow the crack to another large ledge.
8. 40 m G3: Climb a layback crack on the left, pass a block to reach the central groove leading up to a hole. Handrail 3 m to the left to a sloping foothold, mantelshelf and go hard up to the left on rounded holds to a ledge. The summit is a pleasant stroll above.

Party: David Davies and Robin Barley.

Date: September, 1978.

Gallows Bird

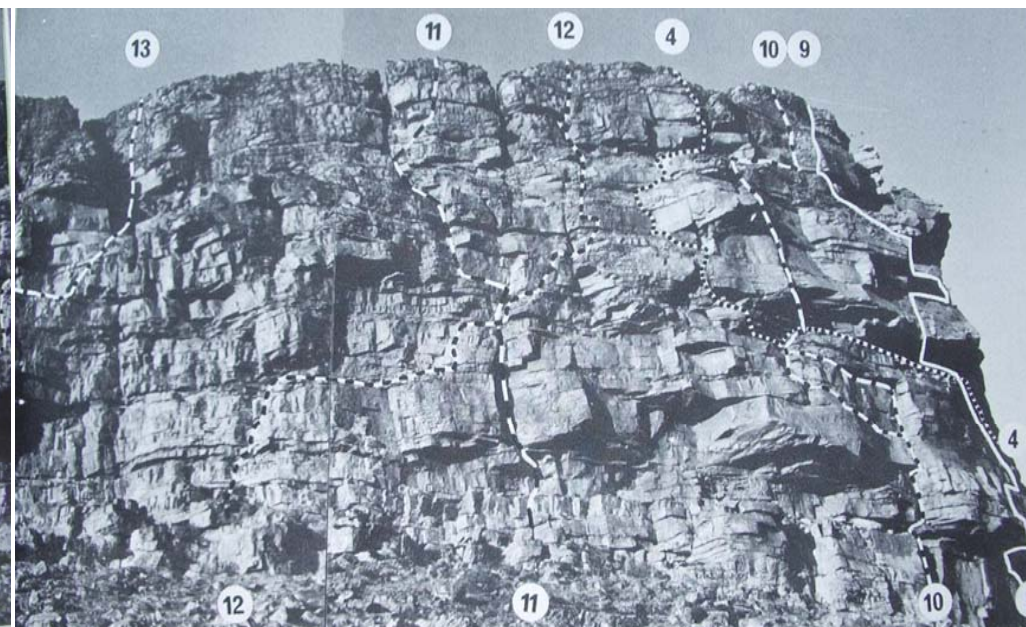
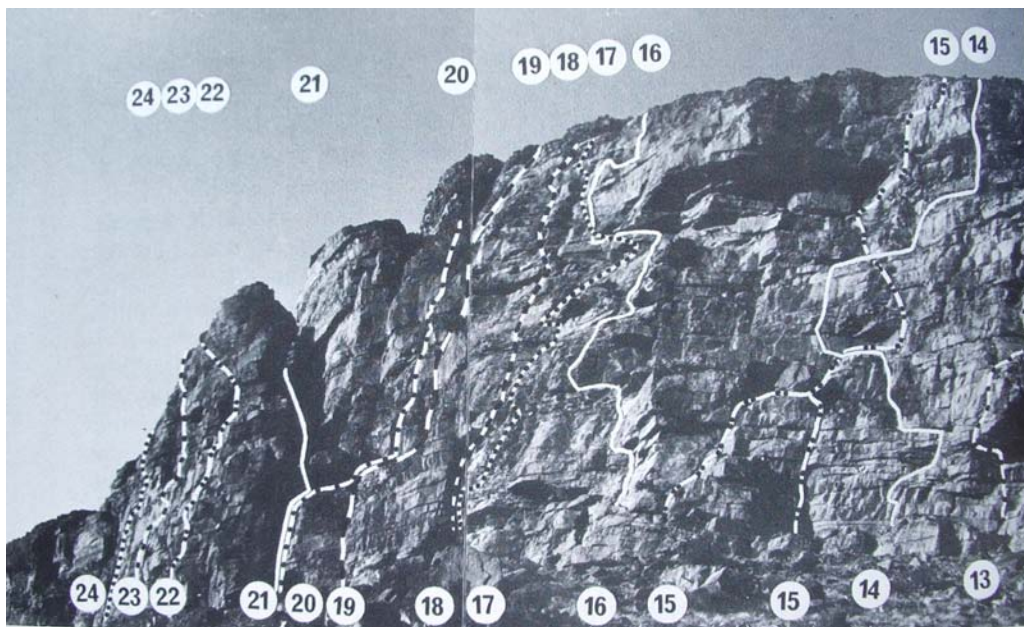
The route follows the deep overhanging chimney immediately on the right of the BP Overhang and continues up the crack system above to finish on the left of the huge truncated nose on the corner between the south-east and south-west faces.

Start at the left-hand end of the ledge below the south-east face.

1. 20 m G1: From a block climb into a square recess with 2 pegs and then traverse to the left to a cramped rest hole below the chimney. Hand-traverse to the left and pull-up strenuously on good rails to reach a ledge in the chimney itself.
2. 40 m F2: Climb up the chimney and continue up the cracks to a grassy bay below an overhanging crack.
3. 30 m F3: Climb the crack and the right-hand wall to gain a chimney. An overhanging lip leads to good ledges.
4. 30 m F1: Go up left via some grassy cracks and then to the left around the corner to finish.

Party: David Davies and Robin Barley.

Date: October, 1978



4. Wolf in Sheep's Clothing
9. Omega
10. Day of the Jackals
11. Satisfaction Guaranteed
12. Eclipse
13. Quite Something

14. Molestor
15. Original Route
16. Grand 'Mere
17. Little Red Riding Hood
18. Imposter
19. After the Goldrush

20. Midnight Confessions
21. Descent Gulley
22. Cry Wolf
23. Flight of Icarus
24. Red Revolution

Omega

The route traverses in from the right under the BP Overhang on the corner between the south-east and south-west faces and takes the obvious line of weakness through the lower band of overhangs onto a grey face. It breaks through a prominent vertical step in the upper band of overhangs and finishes up the orange faces above.

Start at the left-hand end of the ledge below the south-east face.

1. 23 m F1: Traverse to the left under the BP Overhang to a small platform on the corner and continue around the corner on good rails to a narrow ledge.
2. 15 m F2 and AO: Reverse the last part of the traverse and use a concealed flake and a peg to pull up into the recess below a ceiling. Traverse to the right across a face using a fixed peg for aid and move out under the overhang into a niche,
3. 22 m F2: Climb up for 3 m, traverse back to the left and climb a steep crack with some blocks in it to the level of an overhang. Traverse to the right past the overhang to a ledge below a short grey crack.
4. 20 m E2: Climb the crack and continue up over large blocks into a cave-like recess. Move to the right and then back to the left onto a nose leading to the broad ledge beneath the second band of overhangs. Walk to the left for 20 m to a wall forming a vertical step in the overhangs.
5. 18m F3 and AO: Use vertical hand jams, a peg and 2 nuts to move to the left across the wall and up to a small ledge at the base of a vertical crack on the corner above the overhang. Follow the crack to a stance on some jammed blocks where the crack narrows to a slit 5 m below another overhang.

6. 24 m E3: Traverse to a ledge on the right with a grey face above it, climb the exposed projecting corner and move back to the left to a belay directly above the previous stance.

7. 16 m F2: Layback and jam up a tricky crack and then climb up easily past a pinnacle leaning against the face under an overhang to a large ledge on the left. Scramble 20 m through a short steep band of rock to an undercut face.

8. 30 m E3 and F2: Pull up through the overhang onto the face (F2) and climb the face and a short recess on huge jugs to the top.

Party: Pete du Preez and Andre Schoon.

Date: November, 1978.

Day of the Jackals

The route follows a direct line up a shallow diédre and then works its way up to the left to a prominent vertical grey ramp piercing the upper band of overhangs on the south-west face.

Start in the deep recessed corner of brown rock 50 m to the left of the corner between the south-east and south-west faces.

1. 18 m F2: Straddle across to the right and pull up into the corner from under the small overhang on the left at its base. Climb the corner to the small overhang capping it by jamming up a thin crack and using good incut grips on the left wall. Traverse to the left for 3 m and pull up onto a platform.
2. 20 m G1: Hand-traverse to the right over the recess on an undercut rail at a step in the overhang above the platform and pull up with difficulty into a niche. Climb up a shallow diédre to a large triangular roof, turn this on the right and pull up to a small ledge. Jam up a vertical crack and mantelshelf up the smooth face on the left to a narrow stance.
3. 35 m E3: Continue up the diédre to the top overhangs and traverse to the left to climb up to a good stance to the right of and below the ramp. Alternatively, traverse to the left on the obvious thin footrail and widely spaced handholds at full reach at the level of the previous stance before working to the left on easier rock and reversing the descent pitch of Sheep's Clothing to the same stance. This alternative traverse involves more difficult climbing.
4. 5 m F3: Climb a shallow corner and do a difficult traverse to the left on poor handholds to a small ledge on the ramp.
5. 35 m E2: Climb the ramp on a profusion of superb jugs. The situation is spectacular as the ramp projects out over space.
6. 6 m E2: Climb through the short steep band of rock behind the stance. Scramble up to the right and walk along a narrow ledge to an overhanging crack 15 m to the right of the deep chimney in which Sheep's Clothing finishes.
7. 30 m E1 and F1: Climb the crack, continue up the right-hand side of a small amphitheatre and then move back to the left to break through the final overhanging band on good jugs.

Party: Pete du Preez and Andre Schoon. Aid used on this ascent on pitches 2 and 4 was subsequently eliminated by Robin Barley and party who climbed the described pitches 3 and 4 which are different lines from those originally followed. The alternative pitch 3 described was climbed on the first ascent.

Date: October, 1978.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

The main feature on this route is the big left-leaning grey groove to the left of the overhanging bands on the south-west face.

Start from the ledges directly below the groove.

1. 10m F3: Climb past some suspect blocks into a short corner. Avoid a poised white flake by hand-traversing to the left so gaining a narrow ledge at the foot of the main groove.
2. 40 m G1: Superb climbing leads up the back of the groove and out to the left around an overhang. Climb up the short corners above to a massive ledge on the right.
3. 25 m F2: Go horizontally to the left on a narrow rail to a niche and then climb directly up on jugs to a belay ledge.
4. 90 m: An easy chimney gives access to an escape ledge whence scrambling on gargoyles leads to the summit.

Party: David Davies and Robin Barley.

Date: October, 1978.

Eclipse

The route traverses in from the left, follows the smooth face to the left of the upper section of the grey groove used by Satisfaction Guaranteed and then crosses this route and finishes with some pleasant pitches on the flat faces to the left of Sheep's Clothing.

Start at a vertical block on a ledge below a peculiar horizontal line of pigeon-holes in the face.

1. 25 m E2: Climb up a grey face past the line of pigeon-holes and into a shallow sharp-angled recess on the right to reach a stance on a ledge behind a large loose block.
2. 25 m E1: Traverse easily to the right to a narrow ledge below a steep smooth orange-grey face.
3. 23 m F1: Climb the face from the right-hand extremity of the ledge, first straight up to a shallow crack and then diagonally to the left up the crack to a handrail under the main overhangs. Traverse to the right into the recessed corner above the grey groove, reach up and pull through the overhang on its right on good jugs.
4. 10 m F1: Pull up onto the smooth grey face 5 m to the right of the recessed corner, bear slightly to the right past an overhang and climb a vague recess to a stance with some loose blocks on it below an overhanging crack. Walk 7 m to the right to a juggy face.
5. 25 m E3: Climb up for a few metres, traverse to the left and then continue straight up the face to a stance on a good ledge. Scramble 6 m up a grey face to a narrow ledge below an orange wall.
6. 28 m F1: Climb 6 m up a sharp-angled orange diédre exiting through a V-shaped break on the left of the overhang capping it and climb the vertical face above on small grips to the top.

Party: Pete du Preez, Geoff Ward, Alastair and Andre Schoon.

Date: October, 1978.

Quite Something

The route breaks out to the left on the brown rock below the overhangs in the bay shaped amphitheatre between Molestor and Eclipse. It then angles back slightly to the right to finish on the more broken rock on the right of a large cleft splitting the upper rock band.

Start below the corner where a jam crack, streaked with bird lime, runs up into the overhangs.

1. 20 m F2: From a grass ledge pull up over a short wall onto a rock ledge. Climb the crack above using slippery sloping footholds on the right-hand wall.
2. 18m F3: Climb over a slanting block into the corner about 3 m below the overhangs, and move to the left across a traverse on brown rock with a good handrail and intermittent footgrips. Pull up onto the face above at the first break and climb it to a stance.
3. 12 m F2: Use the jugs on the right-hand wall of the overhanging corner above to climb up to a ledge with large blocks and a tree on it beneath an overhang on the right.
4. 40 m F2: Traverse to the right around a bulge until it is possible to straddle over a tremendously exposed gap. Pull up strenuously onto the right-hand wall and then continue up diagonally to the right to a large ledge. Scramble to another big ledge via short juggy crack on the right.
5. 45 m D: Climb the delightful wall ahead on lazy jugs to the top.

Party: Michael Scott and Richard Smithers in December 1979.

Date: December, 1979.

Molestor and the Original Route

Both these routes follow meandering lines up the broken faces leading up on the right of the broad nose of orange rock projecting from the top of the cliff. The hardest climbing is encountered breaking through the first rock band.

The Original Routes direct start (F2) lies up a steep chimney/crack approximately 40 m to the right of the obvious prominent square tower below the nose. Alternatively, a slightly easier pitch starting closer to the tower angles back to the right in a series of steps. From the broad ledge thus reached at the top of the first rock band (on a level with the top of the tower), the route continues more or less straight up (E/F1) to the ledge below the nose. It finishes on the delightful face running up past the right-hand edge of the nose, first ascending this diagonally up to the right and then following a crack on the left to the top (E/F1).

Molestor starts on the horizontally striated grey green face a few metres further to the right of the Original Routes direct start and goes up to a cubby hole beneath a corner of orange rock on the right (F1). The birdlime streaked brown overhang on Quite Something lies just above and to the right. The route then breaks directly out of the cubby hole with some steep climbing (F2) and trends gradually across to the left to the broad ledge at the top of the first rock band where the Original Route is crossed. A couple of pleasant E pitches back towards the right, again crossing the Original Route, lead to the ledge below the orange nose. This is traversed to the right to the first obvious break, a juggy face with an undercut bulge at the bottom, which is climbed (E) to easier rock and the scramble to the top.

Party: Alastair Schoon, Michael Scott and Geoff Ward.

Date: October 1978.

Grand 'Mere

The route goes up directly underneath the broad nose of orange rock on the south-west face and bypasses this huge overhang up the edge of the grey face on its left finishing by veering spectacularly back to the right above the overhang.

Start in a slanting crack on the left of a prominent square tower. The chimney in which Little Red Riding Hood starts is about 20 m to the left and the first crack pitch on the Original Route lies just around the corner on the right.

1. 27 m F2: Bridge up the sharp outside edge of the crack until it is possible to enter it. Climb a few metres and then traverse out to the left on a smooth face below a bulge where the crack pinches out. Continue up a juggy vertical recess to a broad ledge. Walk 15 m to the left to where the ledge narrows beneath a grey face.

2. 25 m E2: Climb the face to a narrow ledge below a band of orange overhangs.

3. 28 m E2 and F2: Pull up through the obvious break in the overhangs a few metres to the right (3 m F2) and continue up a scoop and a short steep face to a block-strewn ledge below the main overhang. Walk 20 m to the bottom of pitch 4 on Little Red Riding Hood. The routes cross each other here and again approximately 10 m higher

4. 30 m E3 and F2: Traverse 8 m to the left below a small overhang. Climb past it and go up a short smooth face and a grey juggy rib to a shallow orange recess. Climb the recess and exit awkwardly onto a stance on a dassie traverse cutting back to the right across the orange nose.

5. 11 m F2: Move slightly to the left to gain access to the steep groove above, pull up into it and climb up to a small stance.

6. 25 m E2: Descend a few metres and use an excellent handrail concealed beneath a small overhang to traverse 6 m to the right to a block projecting from the face. Traverse 3 m further to the right and ascend an easy face to the top.

Party: Pete du Preez and Andre Schoon.

Date: December, 1979.

Little Red Riding Hood

The route follows a line immediately to the left of the broad nose of orange rock on the south-west face.

Start 70 m to the right of the descent gully in the right-hand of two deep chimneys breaking through the lower rockband. There is a large tree growing at the bottom of this chimney.

1. 28 m D: Climb the chimney for 5 m, traverse around the projecting corner onto the juggy face on the right and climb it to a stance at the right-hand end of the large ledge cutting across the face above the lower rockband.

2. 25 m E2: Pull up onto the face above the ledge in the left-hand of two right-angled recesses and move diagonally to the left onto a projecting corner of brown rock. Climb straight up and then back to the right below some small overhangs into a wide recess and up to a narrow ledge below an orange overhang capping the recess.

3. 25 m E1: Continue up to the overhang, traverse to the left and then back to the right immediately above it across a waterworn groove to an easy grey face. Climb the face to a stance on a large ledge. Scramble 8 m up to another ledge at the left-hand extremity of the large overhang below the broad orange nose.

4. 30 m E2: Climb up past a projecting prong of rock forming a sharp edged crack to a small overhang, traverse to the left past it and continue diagonally to the left up the face to a small stance in the upper section of a vertical recess. The stance is on the level of a horizontal slit stretching across the orange nose on the right.

5. 22 m E3: Jam up a crack at the back of the open book recess above the stance. Exit to the left and climb a face making a tricky layaway move to the left past a small red overhang onto a narrow ledge. Move back to the right and finish with a mantelshelf move onto a flat terrace.

Party: Geoff Ward, Alastair and Andre Schoon.

Date: September, 1978.

Imposter

The route lies next to Little Red Riding Hood finishing in an open book recess separated from the top pitches of this route by a pillar of rock projecting from the face.

Start in the same chimney as Little Red Riding Hood.

1. 25 m E2: Climb straight up the chimney moving to the left onto the face where it narrows and exit to the right at the top onto a large ledge.

2. 38 m F1: Follow the break immediately on the left of a grey overhang under the projecting corner of brown rock just to the left of Little Red Riding Hood using a high layaway grip to pull up onto the face. Bear to the right and up a vague fault in grey tile-like rock to a narrow ledge, pull through the overhang and climb a shallow recess and a straight face above it to a good ledge. Walk a few metres to the left.

3. 18 m E1 and E3: Climb a juggy face to a red recess capped by an overhang. Move to the left past the overhang and go up a thin slit at the back of an open book and exit to the left at the top.

4. 22 m D: Continue easily to the left past the bottom of a pillar of rock projecting from the face and up the recessed corner on the left of the pillar to a stance underneath an orange overhang.

5. 35 m E2 and E3: Climb the corner for a few metres, traverse 3 m to the left and continue up a crack to a ledge. Go up the projecting rib above and then work progressively to the right up a recess and through the obvious break in the overhangs to the top.

Party: Pete du Preez, Geoff Ward, Alastair and Andre Schoon.

Date: October, 1978.

Topless Dancer

Beyond the pinnacle the cliff scales down and is broken at half height by a large ledge. The route lies up the impressive tall crack splitting the vertical orange wall just to the left of a very prominent chimney some distance to the left of the pinnacle and then continues up easier rock above the ledge.

Start from a rock ledge 10 m to the left of the chimney.

1. 35 m F3: Climb the crack which has several awkward bulges in it. The pitch is well protected and there are plenty of rest points.
2. 40 m E2: Two short recesses full of holes, a slope and a short wall lead to a stance at the base of a recessed corner facing west.
3. 20 m FT: Climb in the angle of the recess to the top.

Party: Mark Morrison, John Moss, Michael Scott and Helmar Zangerl.

Date: April, 1980.

After the Goldrush

The main feature of the route is the magnificent golden face to the right of the deep vertical cleft splitting the upper portion of the south-west face between the descent gully and the broad orange nose.

Start in a shallow bay of grey rock below the recessed corner 20 m to the right of the descent gully.

1. 28 m F1 and F2: From the middle of the bay work to the right and climb a thin slit directly below the corner (one move F2), continue up the recess above stepping to the left at the overhang and back diagonally to the right through a narrowing onto a ledge on the right and ascend a vertical orange wall to a large ledge cutting across the face above the lower rockband.
2. 22 m F1: Pull up past an old gnarled tree into the wide undercut open book at the back of the ledge directly above the previous pitch. Climb the open book to more broken rock on the left and a ledge below a bulging orange face.
3. 40 m E2: Bridge up a recess and continue easily up the juggy faces on the right past a large cubbyhole to small knobbly stance under an overhang still further to the right.
4. 38 m F1: Use an excellent jug to pull up onto a vertical face at the first break 3 m to the right (or climb the easy crack further to the right) and then climb the face on superb golden rock bearing slightly to the left to a short angular recess breaking through the final overhangs.

Party: Pete du Preez, Jonathan Levy and Andre Schoon.

Date: April, 1979.

Midnight Confessions

The route uses the deep chimney at the bottom of the descent gully to gain access to a large ledge cutting across the south-west face above the lower rock-band and then follows the flat grey face on the left of the deep vertical cleft splitting the upper portion of the face. Start at the highest point in the chimney.

1. 22 m F1: Chimney out horizontally for a few metres and then continue up to a narrow squeeze between two chockstones (which we called the iron lung) to the level of an obvious traverse to a stance on the big block from which the descent gully abseil is normally made. Walk to the right to a steep right-angled orange recess.
2. 40 m E3 and F1: Climb this recess and another directly above it to the level of a good handrail which is used to traverse 2 m to the left. Move back to the right, scramble a few metres to a steep recessed corner and pull up to a stance on stacked blocks. Continue easily up to the left to a ledge below the grey face on the left of the deep vertical cleft.
3. 20 m F2: Move up under a flake and out past it on the left using a foothold on a slightly projecting nose. Make a tricky move back to the right above the flake and then continue straight up a series of mantelshelves to a narrow stance.
4. 23 m E3: Climb up the grey face above following a line close to its right-hand edge until forced back to the left by a bulge.

From the stance so attained it is possible to traverse straight into the descent gully.

Party: Pete du Preez, Jonathan Levy and Andre Schoon.

Date: April, 1979.

Cry Wolf

The route follows the line of least resistance up the right-hand side of the pinnacle making a spectacular traverse to the left to the summit past a prominent bulge of smooth orange rock.

Start in an obvious crack above the large ledge crossing the base of the pinnacle 50 m to the left of the descent gully.

1. 27m E3: Chimney up the crack after starting up a small rib on its right, move slightly to the left and then up a ramp and over some blocks. Follow the obvious traverse line leading to the left around the corner to a small niche at the base of a steep crack.
2. 30 m E3: Climb the crack for a couple of metres and scramble up a small gully to a large ledge. Continue up the face above to gain another large ledge with a huge block on it below a prominent overhang.
3. 14 m E2: From the top of the block use good handrails to pull up onto the face above the overhang and traverse to the left until large holds make it possible to gain a ledge below another overhang.
4. 18 m C and D: Traverse easily to the right to the end of the overhang and scramble up to a commodious bandstand ledge on the crest of the ridge bounding the descent gully.
5. 27 m E2: Climb the red recess at the left-hand edge of the ledge moving out on the left-hand wall and around the corner at the top. Continue diagonally to the left past a very large triangular flake, traverse to the left for 3 m and then go up to a large stance.
6. 27 m F1: From the left-hand end of the ledge climb diagonally to the left over easy rock for 15 m to where a sloping ledge peters out on the corner. Make a steep exposed traverse to the left around the corner on good but awkwardly placed holds and do a mantelshelf to gain a comfortable cubbyhole stance.
7. 14 m E2: Climb up a series of stepped tiers to the ledge below the summit block.

Party: Alastair Schoon and Geoff Ward.

Date: October, 1978.

Flight of Icarus

The route takes a direct line up the flat grey face forming the lower rock-band on the pinnacle and continues straight up the prominent orange recess above to the summit.

Start at a large block on the ledge at the bottom of the grey face about 20 m to the right of the recess with a tree growing at its base used by Red Revolution. A peculiar horizontal band of pigeon-holes coming in from the right terminates 10 m above the ledge at this point.

- 1.23m E2: Climb the face to below a brown overhang at the level of the pigeon-holes and move to the left around it into a shallow recess. Continue straight up the recess on good jugs to a small ledge.
- 2. 18 m E1: Climb the face on the left of the stance for 5 m to a ledge below a smooth wall. Traverse 8 m to the right and climb a short steep recessed corner with a crack in it bearing to the left to a comfortable ledge. Walk 6 m to the left to the end of the ledge.
- 3. 12 m E2 and F1: Go up a projecting corner moving slightly to the right and then straight up the face above it to a ledge.
- 4. 18 m F1: From the left-hand end of the stance climb diagonally to the left up a ramp of grey rock to a platform. Walk a few metres to the left to a curving crack and climb it using a layaway grip to surmount a bulge (which may now be easier after removal of a loose block on the first ascent). Scramble up to the pinnacles halfway ledge and walk a few metres to the right.
- 5. 28 m E3 and F2: Ascend a 3 m orange face streaked with white to a cubbyhole. Continue up a vague recess to where it steepens below an overhang, traverse 2 m to the right and climb the orange face above, first to the left and then bearing to the right below an overhang to the base of a chimney. Climb the chimney, the first section of which bulges and is awkward (F2) to a small stance above a detached pear-shaped boulder at the level of a large overhang on the left.
- 6. 40 m F1: Climb over a chockstone into and up an enclosed chimney on the left to a ledge, traverse to the left, step onto a wedged block on the projecting corner and go up a shallow red recess to a narrow ledge leading to the left. Walk along it for 8 m, climb a scoop and finish up a series of delightful stepped faces to the ledge below the summit block.

Party: Pete du Preez and Andre Schoon., Date: November, 1978

Red Revolution

The route follows the line of a series of recesses on the left side of the grey face on the lower rockband on the pinnacle and then breaks spectacularly through several bands of overhangs onto the magnificent steep orange face to the left of the recess used by Flight of Icarus.

Start in the recess at the ledge below the grey face. There is a large tree growing at the base of the recess.

- 1. 25m F2: Climb the recess to a small overhang. Bypass this on the right and continue up an excellent handjam crack in the corner above to a stance below a bottomless chimney.
- 2. 15m F2: Straddle up the chimney to a good ledge. Scramble 15 m up a grassy gully to another overhanging chimney capped by an enormous chockstone and with a tree growing at its base.
- 3. 15 m E1: Climb the chimney and exit through a wormhole behind the chockstone. Scramble across the pinnacles halfway ledge to a narrow orange rib projecting from the face directly above the previous pitch.
- 4. 40 m F3: Climb up the rib for a few metres, move diagonally to the right across the face with difficulty and then straight up on steps to a ledge below a white streaked flake. Jam up a crack on the right of the flake into a chimney position behind a projecting block forming an overhang. Move up to a roof and exit to the right across a white streaked face into a notch behind another flake. Step off the flake and go slightly to the right to a dassie ledge below a long overhang, pull through the overhang and continue up a short orange face breaking through the second of a tier of three small overhangs to exit diagonally to the left to a comfortable stance below a crack.
- 5. 25 m E2: Climb the crack and continue slightly to the left to a block leaning against the face. Surmount the block, climb a tricky wall above it and mantelshelf onto the terrace next to the summit block.

Party: Pete du Preez, Ed Marais, Jonathan Levy and Andre Schoon (part only), Date: April, 1979

Notes

The photographs in this guide are taken from the original route guide. The main one is a combination of a few photographs, and there appear to be some issues where the photographs align. In particular, the starts of routes 17 and 18 (Little Red Riding Hood and Imposter) lie on one of these boundaries. The photos are badly aligned here, and a large piece of rock is missing from the photograph. See the additional colour photographs for clarity.

Grade Conversion Table:

RSA	OLD	FRA	USA
5	C	1	
10	E2	2	
11	E3	3	5.6
12			
13	F1	4	5.7
14			
15	F2	5a	5.8
16			
17	F3	5b	5.9
18		5c	5.10a
19	G1	6a	5.10b
20	G2	6a+	5.10c
21		6b	5.10d
22	G3	6b+	5.11a
23	H1	6c	5.11b
24		6c+	5.11c
25	H2	7a	5.11d
		7a+	5.12a
26	H3	7b	5.12b
27		7b+	5.12c